

*Subagents of Olawa*  
KIAMUSZE PRISON *as indicated*

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The Kiamusze prison where Sov. refugees and deserters were kept was located outside the city limits as it may be seen on the enclosed map. The prison was a rather spacious one, capable of providing place for several hundreds of prisoners: Chinese citizens and Sov. deserters. The number of the latter as per the data given by Sgt. STEPANOV, in 1942 was 47 men. In 1943, only in the "black" wing of the prison's building there were kept 13 Russians. The prison premises occupied two buildings: one was the prison proper, the other, smaller one, was the "black" prison. The latter one was used for imprisonment of especially important criminals or for those whom it was considered necessary to exterminate gradually. Its regime and treatment of the prisoners were really cruel beyond imagination.

*Job 76-780R, Box 328*  
The Chief of the political section of the Kiamusze prison, in charge of all Soviet deserters, was a Jap named SINOHARA (Jakov Ivanovitch), ~~XXXXXX~~ a Japanese Christian by faith, who used to order his assistants to beat and torture prisoners while questioning them. It is said that while watching the beatings and tortures he was always in high spirits. His Japanese assistants were: SUDZUKI, OTO (who had a Russian wife in Harbin), MIDZU, YOSICKA (from the Japanese Military Mission), KOBURITA (the latter was comparatively better than the others in his treatment of Russians). The Russian assistants were: PLYESHKOV, Vassily Sergeevitch, (worked before in "Harbinskoe Vremia"- Harbin Russian daily edition -, was very strict and cruel while assisting in interrogations and therefore was nicknamed "The Terror of Kiamusze". But it should be noted that when he really believed in the interrogated prisoner's good faith, he was just and treated such a man well) Walter KOIK, policeman, a very rough and cruel man, Pavel SHILYAEV, SLOEV - from the Japanese Mission, BOTENEV- editor of the "Bright Ray", a Kiamusze Russian magazine, TIHONOV, whose daughters worked in one of the restaurants in the city. Besides those enumerated several Russian policemen who were.

*This might have been further two years ago but probably  
no interest now*

half-prisoners themselves for having killed a number of Chinese in the woods with mercenary purposes, were usually taking part in the questionings. Also, a certain Nicholai PAVTSATSII? (Georgian national) aged 36, a recent deserter (or rather a Sov. spy) from USSR where he had two daughters left, was famous for his cruelty. He was well fed by the Japs and was <sup>to</sup> used, due his physical strength, for beating and torturing the other prisoners. Among the Japanese there was also a photographer MORI who should be mentioned for his comparative decency in treating the Russians, but even he was far from perfection.

Among the prisoners there were kept also several Soviet operatives who under the assumed role of refugees or deserters played such a dirty part in the fate of Bondarenko brothers, namely: SCHNEIDER, Yakov Adamovitch, 37 yrs, OSTAPCHUK, 36 yrs., an old man FILKOV, ex-Kolchak's officer who had turned Red later, and especially TIHONOV, Nicholai, 39 yrs., Chuvash national who had worked in the frontier branch of NKVD and, as the deserters maintained it, crossed the frontier with a special mission of espionage and all kinds of provocative activity aimed at the destruction by Japanese hands of those Russians who were dangerous for Soviets because of their extensive knowledge of things in Soviet Russian not to be talked about. It is certainly of interest to mention that when the Soviet-Japanese war was declared, Tihonov who by that time had been kept in the Fuhsin Camp was, shortly before that transferred to Hsinking.

Tortures applied to prisoners in Kiamusze prison were of various kinds: they used to break the arm bones, to pump in the water, to burn with red-hot things or cigarettes. Not only Russian prisoners but Chinese too were tortured. Below follows the story of a woman-refugee, Maria KARCHEVSKY, who was kept in No. 1 cell of the Kiamusze prison together with one Chinese woman (the story was told by a certain STEPANOV, a Sov. deserter):

"In October 1942, my cell-mate, a Chinese woman, had been subjected to tortures by Japanese for three consecutive days: she was beaten on the breasts, pumped in with water and burned by cigarettes." One of the deserters, SOKOLOV says: "In January 1944, I and my cell-mate Chinese prisoner TSO, were beaten by Japanese with leather straps until we lost consciousness and then were kept undressed for half an hour in a snow heap just because Tso started talking in the cell. For the next three days we were kept in an absolutely unheated cell.

On several occasions the prison had been visited by Russian young men who worked in Government organizations (White Russians). According to SOKOLOV, they treated the ~~HEM~~ deserters very well, were compassionate, listened to their complaints but unfortunately were not in a position to give actual help. Referring to bad treatment, one of them, the previously mentioned SLOEV explained it thus: "Several of former deserters turned out to be spies, therefore now Japanese don't trust anybody".

#### Atrocities of the Kiamusze Prison.

(Story by N.G.SOKOLOV who deserted on 29 March, 1943.)

After having crossed the frontier we, i.e. I and my friend M.F.MASLOV, were kept in the prison of a small settlement Erhga, where we enjoyed comparative freedom, that is we were allowed to repair Government motor-trucks, moto-boats, etc., and no beatings were given during the interrogations, in which besides Japanese participated also one Russian, Stepan KORSAKOV, a Police employee, who treated us in quite a human way. After two-months imprisonment there, we have been transferred to the Kiamusze prison, my friend being sent there before me. While on the boat I was treated well but when we came to Kiamusze I was immediately sent to prison and the attitude of the Japs became quite different. Tortures and all kinds of degrading tricks started from the very first interrogation, conducted by Col. Oto and Ta-san. It took place in June 1943. I was charged with espionage and they tried to

force my confession. Since the accusation was absolutely baseless and I was not really guilty of it they started their water-torture and then beat me with bamboo sticks. At the same time they ordered the already mentioned Georgian PATSATSI to beat me with his fists which he was not very loath to do. The next day the interrogation continued in the same manner, my friend being also questioned this time. He had already been tortured before so that I hardly could know him. When we lost our senses we were poured over with water and when we came to, they started the tortures all over again. This time they also applied the torture of hanging us by the elbows roped to the ceiling and then putting us on the window-sill. We could not sit down or even move as this would cause the tighten the noose put around our necks. In this position we were left for three consecutive days without a wink of sleep. When we were taken off at last we were in an absolutely awful state. The next day we were again questioned and tortured by water, and so on every next interrogation was accompanied by various kinds of tortures: ranging from mere beatings up to an absolute deprivation of food, cells with ice-cold water where prisoners were put absolutely naked, etc. The regime in the common cells was also exceptionally strict: we were forbidden to sleep in day-time or talk to each other, and for the slightest violation of these rules either the whole number of the occupants of the cell or a part of them were punished, irrespective of the fact that only one person had been guilty. The punishment usually was merciless beating and I got beaten several times for nothing because usually the violators of these rules were Chinese prisoners. The Japanese prison-guards also invented all kinds of nasty tricks while distributing daily rations, as for instance breaking a piece off a small Chinese bread and giving this small piece to the prisoner, taking the rest of the bread.

In January, due to the ice-cold water tortures, my friend's legs ceased to move and he was tortured by famine. He became gradually weaker and weaker and died in April 1944, of starvation. Prior to his death he was so weak that he

could not move at all, and I had to take care of him. The Japs laughed at him and used to say: "Let him rest now!". I myself was released from the cell only in May 1944- continues his story Sgt. SCHOLOV - but after being let out of the cell I was made a prisoner-guard in the same prison and was never allowed to leave its limits. During after my confinement in the cells and after, in the role of the prison-guard I happened to be a witness to a great many cases of Japanese atrocious cruelty, brutality, provocational tricks and beastly treatment of those in their power, which I want to tell you about:

1. Bondar brothers' fate. (They had relatives in Harbin).

In 1941 two brothers named BONDAR (the elder, Andrei, 32 yrs. old, radio-technician who had worked in Habarovsk, the younger - Michael, 25 years old, 2nd Lt. of the Red Army, escaped from USSR, within the territorial limits of Manchowtikuo. While still in USSR the elder brother invented some new kind of a very economical electro motor and wanting to make use of it for his personal benefit he decided to sell the rights for it somewhere abroad. At the beginning the Japanese were very much interested in A. Bondar, often took him to city restaurants, allowed him free excursion to the city, and he even started to draw the details of the motor with the help of some Japanese specialists brought over for this purpose. Besides, he gave to the Japs all the secret ciphers used by Habarovsk radio-station so that Japanese could decipher all secret Soviet messages. His brother Michael wrote a diary where he entered daily events of their life. This diary was used by one of the real NKVD spies named FILKO to frame up the brothers. This Filko put a sheet of paper with some anti-Japanese propoganda on it into this diary and then submitted the thing to the Japanese. From that day on the attitude of the Japs toward the brothers changed completely. They began to beat them, to torture, accusing them of being disguised Soviet spies. I was myself a witness to the outrageous condition in which they were used to be brought after tortures.

Because I was being tortured the same way the elder Bondar felt a sort of friendship towards me and told me his story under my promise not to tell it to anybody. While being tortured, the younger brother used to tell the elder one: "You'll answer before God for inducing me to escape with you". At last, in April 1944, Andrei Bondar was transferred to the "Tables" located in the center of Kiamusze. "Tables" - was the name of a place specially accommodated for tortures with tables on which the victims were put while tortured. The younger brother became a lunatic and got his tongue paralyzed. In September he was taken away somewhere <sup>else</sup> and nobody had seen him ever since. Evidently he died too. Both brothers were former employees of Chinese Eastern Railway, Manchuria.

Beastly treatment of the deserters.

1. In February 1942, at about 9.00 p.m. the Commandant of the Kiamusze prison <sup>then</sup> YOSIOKA entered one of the cells being absolutely drunk and beat the hell out of a newly joined deserter, ex-Red-Army man Carl BERSIN, who crossed the frontier only about two days before, relates the deserter V.F. STEPANOV, ex Ambur Fleet sailor.
2. Prisoner BOLOTOV (Tartar national) was said to have been tortured in the following manner after his crossing the frontier, in the place named Tung-An: the Japs placed burning cigarettes on his stomach and demanded confession. The fact that Bolotov spoke Russian very badly exasperated them the more and they suspected him of playing some role. Later old man Bolotov was transferred to Fuhsin Concentration Camp which will be described separately
3. A refugee, Nicholai TOMARE, Italian, young actor who escaped in 1940 from <sup>to</sup> Leninsk where he came with ~~some~~ propaganda show, has been put into Kiamusze prison where he, as specially suspected of espionage, was kept in the "black" wing. Tomare had to suffer unhuman tortures, beatings and ~~almost~~ <sup>almost</sup> lost any

semblance to a human being, tells sailor Stepanov. On 5 Sept. 43 N. TCMARE was taken to somewhere else and nobody saw him ever since.

4. In August 1944, Senior Sgt. of the Red Army BOURMANTOV, Anatolii, aged 27, crossed the frontier. As all other deserters he was put into Kiamusze prison - says N. Sokolov, a cell-mate of his, and immediately was begun to be tortured to force out his confession to the effect that he was sent across the frontier with some special mission. At last, not being able to suffer further tortures, weakened morally and physically, the poor fellow confessed to whatever was expected of him; but being then asked, who sent you? the half unconscious man answered: "The Company Commander". Such a nonsense evidently convinced the Japs of his good faith and since then they stopped torturing him but then, deciding that in such a case Bourmantov is an absolutely useless man, they left him to slowly starve. He became so weak that he could not move and had to be taken care of by his fellow prisoners. His stomach, bladder and genital organ were swollen up <sup>with</sup> ~~from~~ water. A few injections made by the Japanese were too late and did not bring any improvement. When I was leaving the prison for the Fuhsin Camp on 9 November 1944, - says Sokolov further - Bourmantov was in agony and I believe he must have died very soon after.

5. Then Sgt. Sokolov relates about another prisoner of Kiamusze prison, a former Sov. workman PISKOUNOV who crossed the frontier in February 1942. This Piskounov had three brothers in Harbin who escaped from USSR in 1922. Because of these brothers he was accused in Sov. land of having contact with abroad and therefore he fled. He was also beaten and tortured. Japs promised him to let him go to his brothers in Harbin but never let him. Sokolov heard Piskounov's cries while being beaten and tortured: "Let me go, let me go, I still have strength enough to fight the Communism!" But the Japs let him starve and in June 1944 Piskounoff died from starvation and dysentery.